

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 05790 181145Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 DODE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 INRE-00 PRS-01 SSO-00 RSC-01 /043 W
----- 012342

O R 181130Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1212
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
UCONSUL ZAGREB 1846

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL PFOR YO NATO
SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO NATO ADRIATIC MANEUVERS

REF: STATE 253509

1. NOVEMBER 17 ENGLISH TANJUG CARRIES EDITORIAL BY
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR VELIMIR BUDIMIR PUBLISHED IN PRESS AROUND
COUNTRY. IT STATES THAT NEWS OF ADRIATIC NAVAL MANEUVERS
RECEIVED WITH "GREAT AGITATION AND CONCERN BOTH BY OFFICIAL
YUGOSLAV QUARTERS AND BY THE YUGOSLAV PUBLIC IN ITS ENTIRETY"
AND THIS REACTION SAID TO BE REFLECTED IN SHARP YUGOSLAV
PROTEST DELIVERED TO US, UK, ITALIAN AND TURKISH DIPLOMATIC
REPRESENTATIVES.

2. EDIT STATES THAT YUGOSLAVS HAD BEGUN TO BELIEVE THAT US-ITALIAN
MANEUVERS HELD LAST SPRING "WERE THE LAST AND THAT THE ADRIATIC
WOULD REMAIN A SEA OF PEACE", ALLEGEDLY BASED ON ASSURANCES
FROM US AND ITALIAN GOVERNMENTS FOLLOWING DARK IMAGE MANEUVERS.
ARTICLE STATES THAT DARK IMAGE ALSO PROVOKED PROTEST BY THE
YUGOSLAV PEOPLE BECAUSE OF TIE-IN WITH ITALIAN TERRITORIAL PRETENTION
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IT CONTINUES THAT ITALIAN PARTICIPATION IN CURRENT MANEUVERS CONFIRMS

HYPOCRISY OF EARLIER ASSURANCES AND PUBLICLY STATED READINESS TO COOPERATE WITH YUGOSLAVIA IN VARIOUS AREAS, AMONG THEM THE SHARED SEA.

3. BUDIMIR NOTES THAT BESIDES ITALY TWO OTHER COUNTRIES -- YUGOSLAVIA AND ALBANIA -- BORDER ON ADRIATIC. HE STATES THAT IT IS THEREFORE SUPERFLUOUS TO ASK AGAINST WHOSE INTERESTS MANEUVERS ARE AIMED, THAT THEY REPRESENT CLEAR AND INTENDED PRESSURE ON BOTH COUNTRIES AND "THREATEN TO MAKE THE ADRIATIC A REGION OF BLOC COMPETITION." EDIT CONCLUDES WITH CHARGE OF COLLECTIVE NATO RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANEUVERS WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPANDED INTO NEW AREAS.

4. BELGRADE DAILY BORBA NOVEMBER 17 RUNS EDITORIAL ENTITLED "DARK IMAGES ON THE ADRIATIC" WHICH NOTES INTER ALIA THAT MANEUVERS ARE DIRECTLY AIMED AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA, ITS INDEPENDENCE, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. IT CONCLUDES THAT YUGOSLAVS WILL RESIST SUCH MANEUVERS BUT ALWAYS BE READY FOR EXPANDING COOPERATION WITH ALL COUNTRIES "WHICH IN CONFORMITY WITH THEIR OFFICIAL DECLARATIONS ARE PREPARED TO SHOW IN PRACTICE HOW MUCH THEY RESPECT YUGOSLAVIA'S INDEPENDENCE AND APPRECIATE YUGOSLAVIA'S NON-ALIGNMENT AS A CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD PEACE."

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD OF NO PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS OR OTHER MANIFESTATIONS OF PROTEST OVER MANEUVERS. NOV 18 PRESS HAS NOT CONTINUED CAMPAIGN CRITICAL OF MANEUVERS. MILLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EXERCISES, DUTY FAN, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BELGRA05790
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740332-0574
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741136/aaaabdtf.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 253509
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <29-Oct-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REACTION TO NATO ADRIATIC MANEUVERS
TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, YO, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005